

Adam Moore, Christian Josue Morales, Lisdeth Morales, Paul Nosegbe, Julius Osei Nyanin, Andrez Obando, Jacob Olave, Alexander Parada, Lisa Vianey Perez, Richard Reese, Edward Robinson, Adriana Roca, Ivonne Aracely Rojas-Telleria, Elijah Jeremiah Scott, Javil Glendon Zanniek Seaton, Billy Gene Sims, Gregory Sorbara, Peter Jordan Stefanov, Philip Suarez, Samuel Crawford Taylor, Avery Tillman, Mark Tull, Elliot Wood, Stephen Wooldrige, Edwin Xicotencatl, Clement Yeboah.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense our nation's freedom.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOE AND FLO HALL

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate Joe and Flo Hall, of Lake Jackson, Texas, on the celebration of their 60th Anniversary this month.

Mr. Joe Hall married Ms. Flo Broussard on May 1, 1954. Though they both grew up in the Lake Jackson area, they did not go on their first date until after Joe returned from World War II, serving our country in the United States Army. It was true love.

After they were wed, their marriage was blessed with three adopted children that they raised while living throughout the United States. Now that they have settled back in Lake Jackson, Texas, they get to spend well-deserved time with their six grandchildren, great-grandchild, and the many children that are lovingly entrusted to their care by friends. Mr. Speaker, 60 years is a long time, and this truly is a Diamond Anniversary. To share these many years with the love of your life is a tremendous blessing.

Mr. Speaker, the institution of marriage provides the strength that holds our communities together. Maintaining a marriage requires sacrifice, understanding, patience and sometimes forgiveness by both husband and wife. Marking the 60th anniversary of a marriage is a very special occasion for not only the couple, but also for the family, friends and community they have touched.

Mr. Speaker, Joe and Flo's lives and love have been a model of excellence and are an inspiration to us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating 60 years of happiness and wishing Mr. and Mrs. Hall all the best in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF OCEAN SPRAY CRANBERRIES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.,

recipient of the President's "E Star" Award for Exports.

Ocean Spray Cranberries has played a pivotal role in forwarding U.S. exports abroad through its innovative, multi-tiered marketing strategies. The team at Ocean Spray Cranberries has worked extensively with non-profits to expand U.S. agricultural exports. In this way, Ocean Spray Cranberries has been a leader in the global promotion of exports in American agriculture and serves as a model for other domestic exporters. Their achievements have also enabled Ocean Spray Cranberries to employ many Americans, including many Massachusetts cranberry growers, providing valid solutions to the issue of national unemployment. Ocean Spray has long been vital to the Commonwealth's community and region's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ocean Spray Cranberries for receiving the President's "E Star" Award for Exports. I ask that my colleagues join me in offering congratulations.

TEXAN COL. RUDDER'S BOYS OF PONTE-DU-HOC

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was raining as the English Channel churned and tossed the Americans in the landing craft. The sun was coming up over the horizon, but no one could see it through the gray clouds. Thousands of teenage liberators stared into the distance to see the high cliffs of Normandy, France. It was D-Day, June 6, 1944—70 years ago.

Expecting to land on Omaha Beach at 6:30 am ahead of other Allied Forces, Texan Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder led the United States Army Rangers' 2nd Ranger Battalion into what seemed like an impossible feat.

As the treacherous weather conjured crashing waves five to six feet tall, a shifting wind tossed the Rangers off course. The mist, clouds and smoke obscured the navigation, making it hard to locate Pointe-du-Hoc from a mile out at sea. Their landing was delayed by forty minutes. Already, the mission seemed doomed. This navigational error meant two things: They would have to sail parallel to the coast facing intense enemy fire. It gave the enemy time to recover and prepare for the next assault.

For almost half an hour, the Rangers rode along the coast as bullets were flying all around them. Some Rangers were hit by enemy fire. But bleeding or not, still they pushed forward.

They battled the wind as the pelting rain blurred their vision and soaked their climbing equipment. They were exhausted and tense. The landing crafts that brought the GIs to shore were beginning to take on water, presenting yet another obstacle for Rudder's Rangers. Water began to leak in through the front ramp of the landing crafts, so the Rangers ripped up the floorboards and used their helmets to bail out the alarming amount of water rushing in all while the Nazis fired down at them atop the cliffs.

One of the landing crafts sunk from the weather and enemy fire. The brutal conditions

of the sea caused others in the landing crafts to become violently seasick. Finally, the Rangers reached the eastern side of the Pointe, their new designated landing spot. It was now 7:10 am. The battle had just begun, and the odds were stacking up against Rudder's success.

The Rangers were miserable, cold, wet and seasick; some bleeding from injury but none wavered. Their mission: to conquer the cliffs at Pointe-du-Hoc and find the big German guns. The guns could reap havoc on later landings.

No longer was the weather their only enemy. As the first shoe print was made in the wet sand of Normandy, the Rangers came under brutal fire from atop the cliffs as the enemy chunked grenades down at them. The men had to resist the urge to take out the machine guns because the primary mission was to climb. Fifteen men were already lost in the crossing of the beach. Divided into three units, Lt. Col. Rudder prepared to lead the Provisional Rangers, task force A of 250 men up the cliffs. They moved quickly with precision and expertise. They shifted through the chaos that ensued around them all while operating soaking wet equipment. (The ropes attached to the grappling hooks were heavy with water and thus could not reach the top of the cliffs when launched from a mortar.)

The Rangers used rope ladders, a few dry grappling hooks and steel ladders to scale the cliffs. Their machine guns were clogged with mud. Amidst enemy fire and malfunctioning equipment, the Rangers were flung back and forth climbing the wet ropes.

While some Rangers provided cover on the beach, amazingly, the first ones to the top, conquered the cliff in 10 minutes. They in turn provided covering fire for the ones still on the beach.

As soon as the Rangers pulled themselves over the cliff, snipers immediately fired. Fortunately, the heaving bombing the Americans had done to the island in the days beforehand had created large craters in earth. This allowed the Rangers to hide themselves from the enemy fire.

Within half an hour, the remaining task forces had made it up the tall cliffs. Rudder, bleeding from two gunshot wounds, never let his focus waver or his determination grow weary. He discovered quickly that the Germans had left wooden decoys in the gun casements. Exhausted, wounded and bewildered, Rudder kept pushing the Rangers inland. They had to find the big guns. Around 8:00 am small patrols were sent south to locate the missing guns. By 9:00 am, their second goal completed. Now, they had to take them out.

The Rangers had located the missing guns 600 yards south of the Pointe. The Nazis had hidden the guns back from the beach to protect them from Allied air strikes and naval bombardment.

Rudders' Rangers took out the emplacements using thermite grenades and eliminated the enemy protecting them.

The mission though completed in spite of the horrific obstacles was not without cost. Rudder's Rangers had over 50 percent casualties. Some Rangers gave their lives that summer morning conquering the cliffs.

As American blood was shed on the French beaches and cliffs, General Rudder had secured the beachhead for later Allied Forces coming ashore. This paved the way to eventual victory.